

away on November 25, 2001. As our nation mourns his loss, our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends during this difficult period of time.

On a snowy night, Patrick and fellow cadets witnessed a driver in distress when the driver's car, due to icy conditions, sped out of control and crashed into an embankment. Despite dangerous road conditions, the cadets stopped to provide the driver with assistance. This noble gesture cost Patrick his life. While assisting the driver, Patrick warned his fellow cadets of the impending danger. His honorable actions left him in harm's way.

Patrick is not unlike like the many members of our armed forces. He wanted to serve his country and he chose the Air Force as a way to help protect America. Many service people have lost their lives in the defense of the citizens of this nation, on and off the battlefield. For Patrick, his battlefield that night was an icy, snow-covered road.

Mr. Speaker, during this time of national tragedy, Patrick symbolizes what our men and women in the armed services stand for. They fight for our protection, for our way of life, and our freedom. Patrick looked out for his fellow citizens that terrible night, and his actions saved the lives of others. I would like to express my condolences to Patrick's family, the Air Force Academy, his fellow cadets, and friends. He touched the lives of many and he will be greatly missed.

CONGRATULATING LA OPINIÓN
NEWSPAPER

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate one of the most influential Spanish Language newspapers in the United States on its 75th anniversary. Founded on September 16, 1926, La Opinión has played an important role in the development of the Hispanic community by reporting on issues relevant to the many Hispanic subgroups in the United States.

La Opinión's journalistic contributions to the Hispanic community are many. Sixty percent of my constituents are Hispanic, they range from newly arrived to fifth generation immigrants. As the leading Spanish language newspaper, my constituents depend on La Opinión for various types of information, including news from their home countries, national events and learning about America's way of life. La Opinión provides useful information for everyday life, creates awareness of local, national and international issues, and promotes political consciousness.

La Opinión has established itself as a leader in the information world. It has demonstrated its true commitment to inform and educate the community objectively. However, its success rests most importantly in the ability to present material in a human way and making every story applicable to the reader's life.

Once again, I congratulate and commend the staff of La Opinión for their commitment to inform the Latino community in the 31st District of California for the last 75 years.

AUSTIN-EAST AND MARYVILLE
HIGH SCHOOL STATE FOOTBALL
CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, every Member is proud when one of their hometown football teams has a winning season, but I am especially proud to say that two of my District's high school teams have won a Tennessee State Championship in their respective divisions. The Austin-East Roadrunners from Knoxville and the Maryville Rebels fought their way to victory on Saturday, December 1st.

For the Maryville Rebels, this was a remarkable repeat performance. As Running Back Carl Stewart said following the game, "It's tradition." In fact, this is the third time in four years that the Rebels have carried the title of State Champions. One of the keys to success that these players share is the belief that every game, no matter the odds, is winnable. They consistently remain focused on the next play and give it all they have.

For the Austin-East Roadrunners, this season was especially rewarding. Many of the Roadrunners had played together since they were seven-years-old, and Saturday's game offered the chance to end their season side-by-side as champions. As Austin-East Senior Mark Andrews said following the game, "Just tell Knoxville we've got a state championship . . ." To Mark and his teammates I say, I believe your team's efforts deserve to be shared with Knoxville and with the entire House of Representatives. Congratulations.

Those of us who have played football at any level know that it requires a lot of hard work, sweat and even, from time to time, a few tears beginning in summer training to achieve a state championship in December. These high school students have shown us all what can be accomplished with the right focus and dedication to excellence.

I believe we can all learn a lesson from the fine young men on both teams. Head Coaches George Quarles of Maryville and Stanton Stevens of Austin-East, along with every player, coach, parent and fan, should be proud of these teams' efforts—I know I am.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TONY
BOBICKI

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Tony Bobicki of Alamosa, Colorado. Tony has recently been named to carry the Olympic torch for the 2002 Winter Games. As a representative of the City of Alamosa, Tony will be among 11,500 Americans selected to carry the torch across the United States.

This is a great honor for many individuals in the country, but more so for Tony. Tony was selected for overcoming a condition that

threatened to take away his ability to walk. Diagnosed with hip socket deterioration at the age of six, Tony was told the chance to walk again would be slim to none. With a determination known to many in the community, Tony refused to give up, left his crutches in the second grade, and learned to walk again. He went on to compete in the athletic arena and was awarded the Outstanding Athlete of the Year as a senior in high school.

Today, Tony is Captain of the Volunteer Fire Department, and with the use of a shoe insertion, leads a normal life. His condition still provides discomfort, but Tony is determined to live on. His determination led to his appointment to carry the torch for the community of Alamosa. In reaction to this honor, Tony stated he will "not walk but jog," during his torch bearing opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Tony Bobicki and his will to succeed in life. He has overcome insurmountable odds to walk again and his courage serves as a model for those suffering from similar ailments. I would like to extend my congratulations to Tony, his family, and the community upon receiving this honor for Alamosa and the State of Colorado. Good luck in your "jog" Tony and I wish you the best in your future endeavors.

A DRUM ROLL FOR SAGINAW
HIGH'S MARCHING BAND

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to sound the trumpets for the 107-member Saginaw High School Trojans Marching Band for consistently playing their way to victory in various musical competitions and also to praise Band Director Jeannine Coughlin for her persistence and determination in returning the Marching Trojans to a place of prominence among high school bands in mid-Michigan and across the nation.

When Jeannine Coughlin first picked up the director's baton in 1993 to lead the Marching Trojans, band membership was down to a low of thirty musicians and it was a struggle to recruit students to participate. Jeannine expeditiously remedied the situation by persuading young people that learning to play an instrument was within their capabilities if they were willing to put in the effort and practice. Her confidence and enthusiasm quickly spread throughout the school and a top notch marching band was reborn.

Moreover, the band's success has amplified, reaching well beyond the confines of its practice room and its performance venues. In their new black and gold uniforms, band members proudly display a sense of school pride and unity that goes a long way in instilling an admirable self-image and strong sense of self-respect for the entire student body.

I have had the privilege and pleasure of listening to the band and watching their well-choreographed dance routines as we marched together in a parade. I can personally attest to their superior musical skills, lively cadence and unbridled spirit. Their talent also has been